

SOUTH COMMON LOWELL, MA

MASTER PLAN



Prepared by
Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Planners

*Project funded by the Executive Office of Energy and
Environmental Affairs*

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Introduction

The master planning process for South Common was initiated in July 2009 to help the City of Lowell develop a long range vision for the park based on desired uses and activities generated from a series of public meetings held between September and December 2009.

The Preferred Alternative developed during the master planning process reflects an overall design concept that can be used a framework for the development of a more detailed park design. In other words, the Preferred Alternative is not meant to be the final park design. Several proposed improvements shown in the Preferred Alternative can be modified or relocated as long as they remain consistent with the goals of the master plan.

General goals include:

- Restore Historic Character
- Improve Park Safety
- Improve Existing Park Uses
- Increase Park Usage
- Improve Pedestrian Circulation within the Park
- Improve Streetscape adjacent to the Park
- Accommodate the National Park Service's trolley route through the Park

The master planning project was made possible through a Gateway City Parks Program grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Park History

The City of Lowell acquired South Common in 1845. Early photographs show large expanses of lawn with big shade trees and walking paths that cross to neighboring streets, features typically found in other town commons of the era. The Common's focal point was granite-faced oval pond, encircled by large trees and a walking path with bench seating.



Early photograph of South Common

Over time, the passive character of South Common has changed to a more recreationally-focused park. The Common's character began changing around 1904-1905 when the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted drafted plans for adding a baseball field and "gymnasium ground" in South Common¹. In 1905, a running track and baseball diamond were installed².

In 1962, the Edith Nourse Rogers School was built on roughly half the site, although in a location that had been occupied by a school since the 1830's³. The sloping topography was modified with concrete retaining walls and new parking lots associated with the school. Photos of that era show that the oval pond and associated structure remained but most of the trees that were present in early photographs had been removed. Recreational facilities included a baseball diamond with bleachers, tennis courts, basketball court and playground.



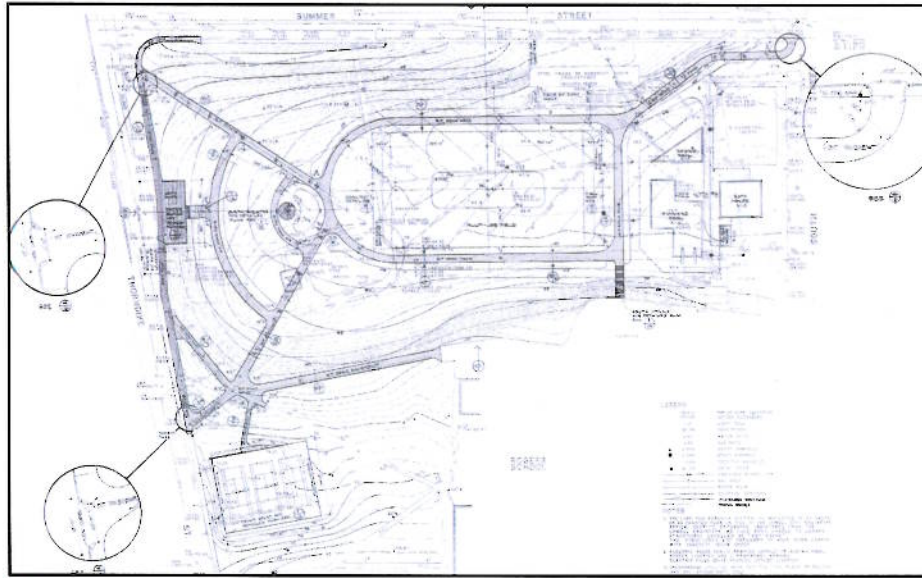
Photograph of South Common and Edith Nourse Rogers School

¹ Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. February 2010, < <http://www2.rediscov.com/olmsted/>>.

² Stowell, Stephen. *South Common Historic District Brochure*, 1996.

³ Ibid

In 1975, plans were developed that added more recreational uses to the Common. Tennis courts were expanded and a swimming pool with a concrete bath house, a multi-use sports field, outdoor amphitheater and modern-style plaza along Thorndike Street were constructed. The oval pond and structure were removed and walking paths reworked to accommodate the Common's new program.



South Common Layout Plan, Paul C. K. Lu & Associates, 11-28-1975

Little has changed since then. A children's play area with swings and play structures was added near Rogers School and one tennis court was converted to a basketball court. The multi-use sports field has become a popular, heavily-used soccer field. Today, South Common no longer resembles a traditional New England town common.



South Common Birds Eye View, courtesy of Bing.Com

South Common is part of Lowell's South Common Historic District. The District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. In 2005, the South Common Neighborhood District was created by the Lowell City Council as part of eight new neighborhood districts under the jurisdiction of the Lowell Historic Board (LHB). The district follows the boundaries of the previously established National Register of Historic Places district for South Common, excluding those areas already included in the Downtown Lowell Historic District.

At a meeting with Stephen Stowell, of the Lowell Historic Board, his feeling was that a historic restoration was not possible with all the changes that have been made to the park over the years. However, it is important to acknowledge the park's history and its location within an historic district and to restore some of the spirit of a New England town common to this park.

Current Uses, Issues and Constraints

Current uses are primarily recreational in nature. Current uses and activities include:

- Soccer
- Walking
- Running
- Swimming Pool with Bath House
- Basketball (1 Court)
- Tennis (2 Courts)
- Volleyball
- Playground
- Sledding (winter)
- Parking Lots and Service Roads

The soccer field, walking track and swimming pool are the most heavily used facilities. The tennis and basketball courts are also well used. Although there is no formal volleyball court, people bring their own volleyball nets and place them on posts located in the lawn at the western end of the soccer field. In the winter, the steep slopes are popular for sledding.

The surface of the soccer field is compacted, almost completely barren of grass and suffers from poor drainage. In addition, the DPW dumps snow, which may be contaminated with de-icing chemicals, on the field.

Many people do not feel safe in the park. Reduced visibility, both into and out of the park, contributes to a feeling of isolation and is caused by mature vegetation, built structures that block views and the lack of adequate lighting. In addition, windows in the Rogers School that face the park have clouded over so that the room occupants cannot see out the windows and provide informal surveillance of park activities.

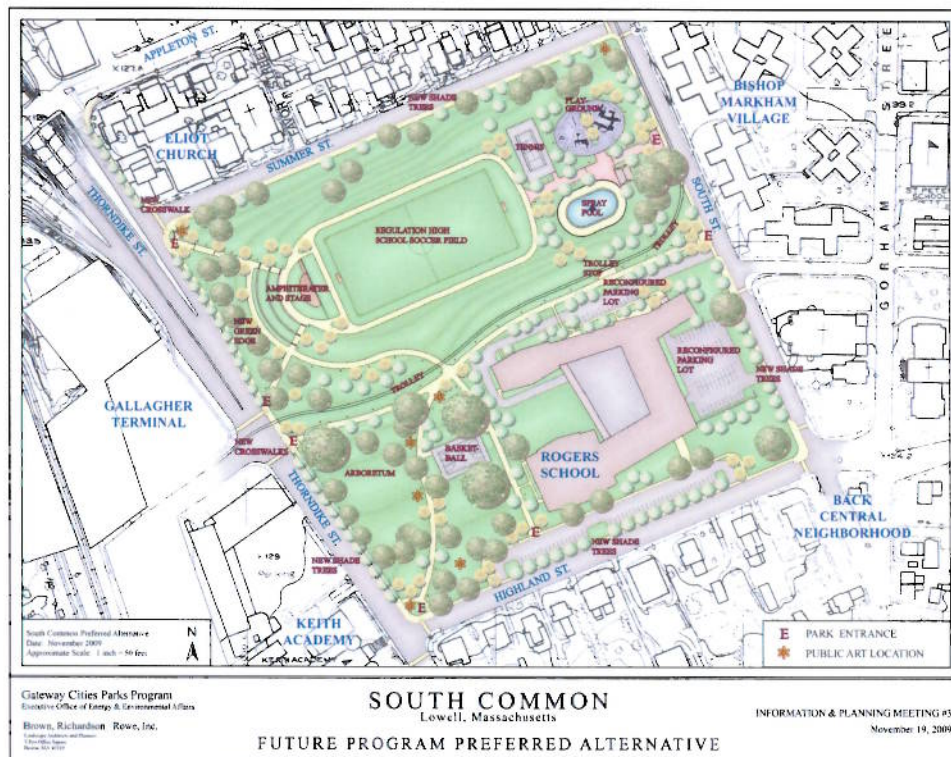
Anticipated Future Uses

At the public meetings, there was general agreement that the existing functions and uses of the Common are all valuable, and needed, but their locations could be changed. Based on public input from the September and October meetings, the following additional features and activities are desired for South Common:

- Activities for different ages,
- Festival events,
- Outdoor movies,
- Farmers' markets,
- Cultural festivals,
- Public art with a theme and
- The National Park Service's trolley route through the park to Gallagher Terminal.

Community members also expressed interest in changing the industrial feel of the Common, especially along the park edges. There is an opportunity to do this by reducing the amount of asphalt and structures at the edges and restoring a landscape of grass and trees. Relocating built items such as the pool, pool house, parking lots, tennis and basketball courts further into the park will help people see the park as a welcoming, green oasis.

The feeling of safety for park users will increase through the removal or reduction of physical barriers, pruning and/or thinning out trees, appropriate lighting and carefully locating built structures. Aggregating activities will also improve the feeling of safety and help make the park more fun for families with kids of different ages.



Features of the Preferred Alternative presented at the November meeting include:

- Greening of park edges,
- Creating welcoming park entrances.
- Pruning or removal of existing mature trees to allow views into and out of the park.
- Opportunities for the display of public art within the park.
- Incorporating new historic-style lighting along park walkways.
- Removing the existing amphitheater and modern plaza to create a new stone seating terraces built into the slope to provide comfortable seating for people to use during events. The amphitheater could be used for outdoor movies, festivals and small entertainment events.
- Creating two pedestrian walkways to the proposed amphitheatre from Thorndike Street, near Gallagher Terminal and from Summer Street, near Eliot Church. Because of the existing steep slope, steps may be needed on these walkways down to the amphitheatre. However, other accessible paths would provide access to the amphitheatre for disabled park users.
- Upgrading paths to meet ADA accessibility guidelines, which were developed after the park was built.
- Preserving the sledding area on the slope in front of Eliot Church.
- Developing the South Street side of the Common as the main park entrance and “heart of the park” with activities for all ages. A main park entrance, framed with new trees, would extend from South Street to the soccer field. Located here are:
 - * ADA compliant playground with equipment for both 2-5 year olds and 5-10 year olds,
 - * New tennis court (which could instead be a volleyball court), and
 - * A new spray pool (which could instead be a swimming pool. The pool equipment would be concealed in a smaller structure located further away from South Street. There would be bathroom facilities in the pool house as well.
- Enlarging the existing soccer field to meet regulation high school soccer field requirements. In public meetings, people expressed a desire to have an artificial turf field.
- Adding a new loop path around the soccer field that would have distances measured for general jogging, walking and exercise.
- Relocating the basketball court closer to the gym in Rogers School, away from Thorndike Street. This location would not require fencing around the court.

- Developing the southwest corner of the Common as an arboretum, building on the great trees that are already there and adding new ones.
- Expanding the parking lot on the east side of Rogers School by re-grading and adding an attractive landscape wall to screen the view of the parking from Highland Street. Parking spaces would be properly marked to maximize the number of parking spaces.
- Reconfiguring the parking lot on the north side of Rogers School. In public meetings, people reported that the existing second level of parking is unsafe and therefore, rarely used. In the Preferred Alternative, this lower level has been eliminated and the parking lot is now shown on one level.
- Adding signage to indicate clearly where and when the public is allowed to park.
- Providing the National Parks trolley track running east-west through the park with an accessible trolley stop near South Street and Rogers School. The tracks could be set in grass within the park, with an accompanying walking path parallel to the tracks. The sloping topography in this area presents grading challenges, but appears to be able to be manipulated to bring the trolley through the park as shown.

Summary

As previously noted, the Preferred Alternative is not meant to be the final park design. Several proposed improvements shown in the Preferred Alternative can be modified or relocated as long as they remain consistent with the goals of the master plan. However, because recreational facilities require relatively level ground, their locations will be constrained by the steeply sloping topography that covers much of the site. Because of the steep slopes, a topographic survey is needed to serve as the basis for future detailed design efforts.

During the course of the public process, conflicting views from some community members were expressed for some of the proposed improvements and park features. Some items that appear to be open for further discussion or need further study include:

- A full-size swimming pool instead of, or in addition to, a spray pool
- Incorporating community gardens within the park
- Volleyball court instead of, or in addition to, a tennis court
- Conducting a parking study to determine parking needs for park visitors, Rogers School, Bishop Markham Village (BMV) and other residents abutting the park.
- Many BMV residents opposed having the playground located near their residences because they felt it would be too noisy.

Continued community participation and consultation with key stakeholders such as the Lowell Historic Board, Parks & Recreation Department, Planning & Development Department and Lowell Public School Administrators will be necessary as the detailed park design progresses.

Appendix A

Estimate of Probable Construction Cost

South Common Future Program Preferred Alternative
November 19, 2009

**ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS
SUMMARY**

SOUTH COMMON FUTURE PROGRAM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Lowell, Massachusetts

19-Nov-09

Item - Description	Amount
Site Demolition and Removals:	\$632,450.00
Site Improvements:	\$5,457,053.00
Subtotal:	\$6,089,503.00
Contingency (25%):	\$1,522,375.75
Grand Total:	\$7,611,878.75

Notes:

1. Estimates do not include any costs associated with the Trolley Line.
2. Estimates do not include any costs associated with hazardous materials.
3. Estimates are based on fair market value and do not attempt to replicate the lowest bid.
3. Estimates are in current dollars and do not include escalation.
4. Estimates do not soft costs for consultant fees, project management and other owner costs.

**ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS
SITE MOBILIZATION, DEMOLITION AND REMOVALS COST BREAKDOWN**

SOUTH COMMON FUTURE PROGRAM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Lowell, Massachusetts

19-Nov-09

	Item - Description	Amount
1	Mobilization	\$10,000.00
2	Site Paving and Base Materials, Removed and Disposed: <i>Bituminous Concrete - Walkways, Driveways, Courts</i>	\$150,150.00
	Safety Surfacing @ Tot Lot	
	Concrete Stair and Railings	
	Circular Amphitheater Plaza	
3	Site Walls and Fencing, Removed and Disposed:	\$17,825.00
	Concrete Retaining Walls (incl footings)	
	8' Ht Chain Link Fencing (incl footings)	
4	Site Furnishings:	\$10,000.00
	Wood Benches and Footings, Removed and Disposed	
5	Fields/Courts/Play Area:	\$7,100.00
	Play Equipment and Footings, Removed and Disposed (2 structure + 1 swing + 2 spring toy	
	Soccer Goals @ Field, Removed and Stockpiled	
	Tennis Nets @ Courts (incl footings)	
	Basketball Hoop @ Courts (incl footings)	
6	Utilities:	\$3,000.00
	Field Lighting, Removed and Disposed	
7	Swimming Pool:	\$220,750.00
	Pool House, Demolished (incl utility work)	
	Swimming Pool, Demolished (incl utility work)	
	Concrete Paving @ Pool	
8	Tree Removed	\$60,000.00
9	Tree Protection Fencing	\$30,000.00
10	Tree Pruning	\$18,000.00
11	Tree Root Pruning in Excavated Areas	\$10,000.00
12	Topsoil Excavated, Rehandled and Spread	\$95,625.00
	Total, Site Demolition and Removals	\$632,450.00

ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS SITE IMPROVEMENTS COST BREAKDOWN

SOUTH COMMON FUTURE PROGRAM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Lowell, Massachusetts

19-Nov-09

Item - Description	Site Improvements	Amount
1	Grading, Fine Grading and Compaction	\$70,830.00
2	Paving, Curbing and Stairs	\$1,260,568.00
	Concrete paving - at Rogers School, includes base materials	
	Bituminous walkway paving - includes base materials	
	Bituminous vehicular paving - includes base materials	
	Bituminous vehicular paving - resurface existing	
	Specialty granite paving - at Amphitheater & Main Entry, includes base materials	
	Granite Stairs - at Amphitheater	
	Granite Curbing - at Parking	
3	Streetscape Improvements	\$299,525.00
	Concrete paving - at Sidewalks and "Bump Outs"	
	Crosswalk thermoplastic striping	
	Deciduous shade trees (3" - 3 1/2" caliper)	
4	Sports Fields and Courts	\$1,085,655.00
	Soccer Field - Artificial Turf	
	Soccer Field - Irrigation	
	Bituminous concrete court paving	
	Court striping	
	Basketball standards, hoops and backboard	
	Tennis nets and 2 posts	
	8' Ht black chain link fence @ Tennis Court	
5	Play Area	\$574,000.00
	Play Equipment (small kids) - Structure, Playhouse, Swings, Spring Toys	
	Play Equipment (school age kids) - Structure	
	Playground safety surfacing - rubberized	
	Fencing - 5' Ht Ornamental Metal with Gate	

**ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS
SITE IMPROVEMENTS COST BREAKDOWN**

SOUTH COMMON FUTURE PROGRAM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Lowell, Massachusetts

19-Nov-09

6	Spray Pool and Pool House/Comfort Station	\$573,400.00
	Pool House/Comfort Station	
	Specialty Paving - Granite	
	Granite Edge - 9" Wide	
	Fountain Equipment/Mechanicals	
7	Site Furnishings	\$128,500.00
	Benches	
	Picnic Tables	
	Park Signs	
	Amphitheater Stage with Accessible Ramp	
8	Site Walls	\$354,475.00
	Retaining Walls - Stone faced concrete	
	Seat Walls - Granite on concrete footing	
9	Planting	\$504,100.00
	Planting soil at lawn areas and new trees	
	Shredded pine bark mulch (3" depth)	
	Deciduous shade trees (3" - 3 1/2" caliper)	
	Seeding	
10	Lighting	\$450,000.00
	Pedestrian Lighting - fixtures, poles and footings	
	Soccer Field Lighting - fixtures, poles and footings	
11	Site Utilities	\$156,000.00
	Site Water - to pool, comfort station	
	Site Electric - for lights, pool equipment, amphitheater stage	
	Site Storm Drainage	
	Security cameras	
	Total, Site Improvements	\$5,457,053.00

Appendix B

Public Meeting #1

September 23, 2009

**Please join us for a public meeting to help plan the
future of South Common.**



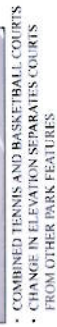
On Wednesday evening, September 23rd from 7 pm to 8:30 pm

The meeting will be held at the:

**Pollard Memorial Library (next to City Hall)
401 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852**

Sponsored by the City of Lowell Division of Planning & Development and
the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs,
Gateway City Parks Program

For more information, please contact Diane Tradd, Chief Design Planner at
978-466-7200



Gateway Cities Parks Program
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs



OUTDOOR MOVIES
Manchester, NH



CULTURAL FESTIVAL
Newark, NJ



URBAN DELIGHTS YOUTH FARM STAND
Syracuse, NY



SOUTH COMMON HISTORIC POND
Lowell, MA



KENOSHA STREETCAR
Kenosha, Wisconsin



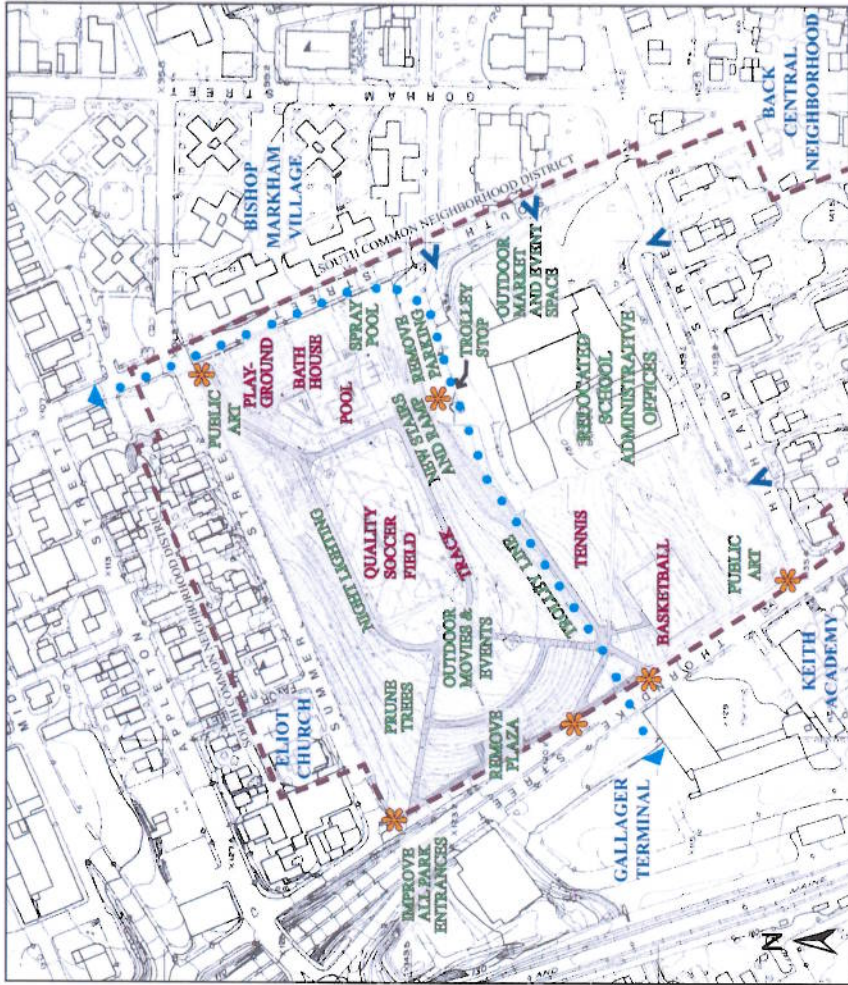
SPRAY POOL
Boston, MA



**TROLLEY CATENARY LINES
BOARDING HOUSE PARK**
Lowell, MA



PUBLIC ART
Lowell, MA



South Common Plan
Date: November 1975
Approximate Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

Future Program Ideas SOUTH COMMON Lowell, Massachusetts

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xxx

GATEWAY CITY PARKS PROGRAM

**Re: Public Meeting #1, Existing Conditions, Site Analysis and Program,
South Common, Lowell, MA**

Date: September 29, 2009

To: Kurt Gaertner, Dorrie Pizzella, EEA

By: Nina Brown, Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc.

CC: Clarissa Rowe, Mary Baker, Diane Tradd

Attendees: Diane Tradd, Chief Design Planner, Aaron Clausen, Planner; Nina Brown, Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc.; Joseph Smith, George Russell, Rosemary Noon, Jane Calvin, Mark E. Goldman, Matt Robbins and Josh.

1) Introduction – Nina Brown

Nina Brown began by explaining that Brown, Richardson & Rowe, Inc. (BRR) is assisting the city with preparing a master plan for the South Common with funding provided by the Gateway City Parks Program of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. There will be three public meetings covering the following topics:

- a) **Meeting #1 – September 23rd at 7 pm**
 - i) Present site analysis plan,
 - ii) Discuss program,
 - iii) Solicit ideas from community participants
- b) **Meeting #2 – October 28th at 7 pm**
 - i) Present two master plan alternatives
 - ii) Present draft program,
 - iii) Solicit ideas from community participants
- c) **Meeting #3 – November 19th**
 - i) Present master plan
 - ii) Present revised program

2) Other Lowell Planning Initiatives – Aaron Clausen

Aaron Clausen explained that Lowell planners have conducted a series of workshops with residents of different city neighborhoods to get their input about future initiatives for the

City. The South Common has emerged as a park that needs attention.

1. Pedestrian Connection

In 2005, the City submitted a grant to the state's Executive Office of Transportation for pedestrian improvements between the Gallagher Terminal and future development in the JAM area (now the Hamilton Canal District). The City was awarded \$500,000 to do improvements. Construction will begin in spring of 2010, and be completed by the end of 2010. Plans include:

- New crosswalk from the LRTA driveway across Thorndike Street, with a new 'walk' signal on the light. The crosswalk will be relocated to the other side of the LRTA driveway (away from the Comfort Furniture building, closer to the entrance to the Commuter Rail station).
- Removal and replacement of sidewalk along Thorndike Street from the new Crosswalk, up the Lord Overpass to Summer Street. For this stretch, there will be a raised tree way between the sidewalk and the street, to provide some buffer between people walking and cars.
- Pedestrian improvements continue along the side of the overpass up to the corner of Middlesex Street. From there, Hamilton Canal District and Courthouse projects will do further sidewalk improvements as they are built
- It does not fund any changes to the 'overlook', but we hope to address that as a part of the master plan
- It does not impact the actual South Common in any way, but provides a better entrance to it, and better sidewalk along it.

2. Trolley Project

The City and National Park Service have spent over seven years looking at expanding their historic downtown 'tourist trolley' into a full transit system. The goal is to have the system provide transportation between the bus/rail connections at Gallagher and various amenities downtown, including the Hamilton Canal District, the downtown businesses, the Arena, the Ballpark and the University. Further links could connect the system into the neighborhoods.

- Trolley would run year-round at 10 minute intervals during peak travel times.
- National Park is working with "The Lowell Plan" to develop a new 'feasibility level' document that will address the route, stops, schedule, construction cost, and operations cost. Operating costs are the greatest challenge in this plan, but they are working on it. The Lowell Plan has hired 'TranSystems' from Pennsylvania to work with on this project. They have done similar trolley projects in Kenosha Wisconsin and Little Rock, Arkansas.
- The greatest challenge to the route is the connection between Hamilton Canal and the Gallagher Terminal. Earlier plans showed the trolley following our proposed pedestrian connection, or crossing above Thorndike Street on an overpass to get into the terminal. Both of these plans have a number of problems (they intersect poorly with traffic, they are too expensive, they have

too many sharp turns, they don't necessarily get people right in front of the rail terminal.

- A new idea, proposed in the 2008 MIT student study of the Back Central neighborhood was to run the trolley through the South Common park behind the Rogers School, then up South Street to Middlesex Street and into the Hamilton Canal District via Revere Street. TranSystems is reviewing the idea of putting the Trolley through the park. A walking path along that route would enable people to cross easily through the park. This trolley route would connect the Back Central neighborhood better into the trolley.
- The planning is still in early phases - if it is to get done it will probably be built after the park improvements. The plan would be to leave a space where it could happen.

3) Site Analysis and Program ideas – Nina Brown

BRR has prepared a site analysis, has looked at the existing program and has begun to think about possible program elements for the future. Nina showed the boards summarizing this information and talked about the existing uses, soccer, track, tennis courts, basketball courts, play equipment and a swimming pool. Much of the soccer field is bare, compacted soil. The park facilities are isolated from each other. The grade change between the adjacent street and the soccer field and track isolates those facilities from the street. The park has safety and cleanliness issues. People sleep in the park during the day. Pruning the pines would open up the view from Thorndike Street.

She also discussed the need to attract people of all ages to the park and opportunities to aggregate compatible uses in one area such as play equipment near the pool near a spray pool.

The Superintendent of the Lowell Public Schools is moving into the building this fall. All the windows facing the park have clouded over so that the room occupants cannot see out the windows unless they open their windows.

There are **Early Childhood** classrooms in the building now. The **Kitchen** staff prepares food for the seven Lowell Public Schools. Three vans pick up the food at the loading dock that faces the park and distribute the prepared food to the seven schools. The **Cafeteria** and food services are open to the public. It is within the realm of possibility that the Kindergarten through fourth graders from one elementary school may be moved to Rogers for the 2010-2011 school year to satisfy that condition.

The Lowell Police Department will have a **Police Precinct Office** on the first floor to the left of the entrance to the Gym. The **Gym** will continue to be used as a gym. It is rented out non-stop both to Lowell High School and the Parks and Recreation Department.

4) Discussion

Mark Goldman hoped that the school would not expand further into the park. The park is really important to the neighborhood. Rosemary would like welcoming connections to be created between the school and the park. Jane Calvin asked whether the school is seen as part of the park. Nina Brown said that, at present, the school does not use the park. The pre-school uses the building's courtyard.

The YMCA uses it in the summer, but is concerned about safety. If the park improves, the YMCA would use the park. The YMCA serves food on Saturday morning. People from the shelter cross the park on the way to the YMCA and are sometimes aggressive.

Rosemary Noon lives on Highland Street. She said that the park is heavily used by soccer players, joggers, Bishop Markham dog walkers, swimming pool users in the summer, and sledders in the winter. People don't feel safe in the park because people sleep there during the day. Additional programmed activities are needed for all ages. New play equipment and a spray pool would be good for small children. Jane Calvin said that spray pools are being installed in other parks in the city and asked whether a spray pool was needed in South Common as well. Jane would rather have a decent pool.

Josh, a resident of Keith Academy asked whether the renovation would cover the park grounds and the school grounds.

Jane Calvin would like to limit the use of chain link fence in the park. She would like to see improved maintenance of the park by the city and reduced vandalism.

Soccer

Serious adult soccer players use the soccer field. The turf is in poor condition. The city needs to develop and implement a maintenance plan for the turf.

Track

Josh would like the track to be retained and improved. The Middle School has tack meets here.

Volley Ball

People bring their own volleyball nets and place them on the posts and play volleyball.

Tennis Courts and Basketball Court

Mark Goldman would like the City to refurbish the tennis courts. Josh said the tennis courts are so close to the road that balls could roll into the street. Rosemary said there are not many public tennis courts left in the city, but one court would probably be ok instead of two. The basketball hoops on the tennis courts are used. The basketball nets get stolen. The residents of Bishop Markham oppose the relocation of the basketball to their side of the park.

Swimming Pool

Aaron Clausen has received feedback saying the pool is heavily used. The pool attracts

residents from the Back Central neighborhood to the park.

Parking

Could there be fewer parking spaces when there is public transportation to the park? It is not clear which parking lots are for school personnel and which parking lots are for park users. Signs are needed. Commuters park all day in free on-street parking spots and prevent park users from using these spots. It would be good to post these spaces as two hours spots. Jane did not want to reduce the spaces dedicated to park use.

Lighting

Mark Goldman said the lights are not working. New lights are needed.

History

Jane Calvin would like to retain some of Olmsted's original design. Nina commented that we could re-create the "Common Character" of grass and trees by removing asphalt and hardscape areas at the park's edges and replace with grass and trees. Josh said that right now the edges of the park look like an industrial parking lot. Joseph Smith said that the chain link fences destroy the park character.

Park Entrances and paths

Jane Calvin said that park entrances are not welcoming. Street crossings are dangerous. The circulation needs to be looked at holistically.

Art

Jane Calvin would like to something creative at the corner of Highland and Thorndike. Rosemary Noon and Aaron Clausen would like to see public art in the park.

Trees and Planting

Jane suggested an arboretum with a diversity of trees in the park such as Beech trees, Ginkgoes, Tulip Trees and Oaks and smaller interesting ornamental trees. She said she has money for trees. Jane would like to see a wider tree belt along Rogers School on Highland Street and also at the corner of Highland Street and South Street. George Russell suggested new trees along Thorndike Street. Rosemary said the white pines are overgrown. She would like to see the dead tree removed and other pines limbed up to allow views into the park

David Koch would like to see fruit trees in the park.

Drainage

Rosemary Noon said that after a rain storm, there is standing water at the end of the track for a long time.

Community Gardens

Maria Dickinson suggested community gardens in the park.

Park Programs

Mark Goldman would like to see a Farmers' Market and festivals in South Common. A Farmers' market would compliment the Hamilton canal development. The folk festival used to be in South Common. Rosemary liked the idea of movies and cultural festivals in the park. Jane Calvin said that Elliott Church has great programs.

Aaron Clausen said that people in the recent planning workshops suggested a flea market, an arts fair, an event space for films or musical performance.

Jane Calvin requested that representatives from the park commission and the park staff attend the meeting on October 28th.

Note: If you find any information in these meeting minutes that is incorrect, Please contact Nina Brown at BRR.